

---

# ISSUES/QUESTIONS FOR THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION TO ADDRESS AT THE SUNSET REVIEW HEARING

---

## **INTERIOR DESIGN ORGANIZATION ISSUE**

**ISSUE 1:** “Interior design organization” means a nonprofit professional organization of certified interior designers whose governing board shall include representatives of the public. It is the apparent intent of the certified interior designer law to have a state sanctioned organization that will certify and provide a “stamp of certification” to those interior designers who have met certain education and experience requirements and passed an examination. It is unclear whether this non-profit professional organization, sanctioned in law by the state, is operating purely as a certifying body or is involved in activities more appropriate for a professional membership trade association.

**Question 1:** What does CCIDC believe their role is? Does CCIDC believe that they are solely a certifying body? Could CCIDC provide information on their involvement in the legislative process over the last three years?

## **BOARD VACANCY ISSUE**

**ISSUE 2:** The law requires the composition of the Board to include representatives of the public. There are currently three public positions on the Board with two vacancies. It is unclear how long these vacancies have existed. It is unclear how public members are selected.

**Question 2:** Please explain the process that CCIDC uses to select public members. How long have the two public member vacancies existed and are there any plans to fill these vacancies?

## **CERTIFICATION ISSUES**

**ISSUE 3:** A “certified interior designer” is defined as a person who, among other things, has demonstrated by means of education, experience and examination, the competency to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the public. It is unclear whether legal action can be taken against individuals who hold themselves out to be certified interior designers who have not demonstrated their competency to CCIDC.

**Question 3:** Does CCIDC believe existing law clearly protects the term “certified interior designer”? If so, does CCIDC believe there is an enforcement mechanism in place to stop individuals from illegally using this term?

**ISSUE 4:** It is an unfair business practice for any person to represent to the public that they are “state certified” to practice interior design.

**Question 4:** What does CCIDC do to ensure that CCIDC certified interior designers are not representing to the public that they are “state certified”?

**ISSUE 5:** CCIDC believes that it has limited disciplinary powers to either revoke or suspend a person’s certification.

**Question 5:** Does CCIDC have this type of authority? If so, do they provide a due process procedure? Does CCIDC believe they have the authority to require a CIDs to take remedial education?

**ISSUE 6:** CCIDC believes that they do not have the authority to refer complaints about non-CIDs to the Attorney General or any other legal authority.

**Question 6:** Does CCIDC need legal authority in order to refer complaints?

**ISSUE 7:** One of the requirements an interior designer must satisfy in order to be certified by CCIDC is to provide proof of education and experience, plus passage of an examination. While there are three ways that an individual can satisfy the education and experience requirement, all variations require passage of an examination. It is unclear whether proof of experience alone would be sufficient.

**Question 7:** Does CCIDC have any thoughts on whether proof of diversified interior design experience alone would be an adequate indication of a person’s competency?

**ISSUE 8:** During its last review, CCIDC indicated that after their staff and Board review an application, it is then forwarded to CLCID for ratification. Upon ratification by CLCID, applicants receive notification of their eligibility to become certified.

**Question 8:** Does CCIDC still forward applications to CLCID? If so, can CCIDC explain the appropriateness of such an action?

## **EXAMINATION ISSUES**

**ISSUE 9:** Two additional examinations have been accepted by CCIDC since their last review.

**Question 9:** Does CCIDC believe the two new examinations are comparable to the NCIDQ examination? What has CCIDC done to ensure that all three examinations meet the legal standards for occupational analyses?

**ISSUE 10:** The NCIDQ examination is given in April and October of every year. It is unclear whether this is often enough. Additionally, it is unclear when the other two national examinations and the California Codes and Regulations examination are offered.

**Question 10:** Can CCIDC provide further information on when the other examinations are offered? Does CCIDC believe twice yearly is enough and has consideration been given to computerized examinations?

**ISSUE 11:** Designers must also pass a California Codes and Regulations examination consisting of 75 multiple choice questions. It is unclear why this additional examination is needed and whether any of its questions overlap with questions asked by the other examinations.

**Question 11:** Can CCIDC explain the rationale for this additional examination? Does CCIDC believe that any of the 75 questions overlap with any of the questions asked by any of the other examinations?

## **FEE ISSUE**

**ISSUE 12:** According to the CCIDC, its main source of revenue is the \$200.00 biennial renewal fee established in 1992. CCIDC has indicated that they might need to raise fees in order to stop the continual financial losses they have incurred, and to stabilize and maintain a 6 month reserve. CCIDC's expenditures are unclear. It is unclear whether CCIDC's revenues are greater than their expenditures.

**Question 12:** Why does CCIDC think they have incurred substantial financial losses? Why does CCIDC believe they need a 6 month reserve? Can CCIDC explain their expenditures and their revenue to expenditure ratio and provide a breakdown of all costs.

## **REGISTRATION ISSUE**

**ISSUE 13:** Over the past four years, only 60 applications were received by CCIDC. It is unclear how many of the 60 were first time applicants and how many were reapplying because they failed to renew. Additionally, it is unclear how the 60 applicants compares to the number of interior design school graduates during that same time period.

**Question 13:** Can CCIDC explain which of the 60 applicants were first time applicants? Can CCIDC provide the number of interior design school graduates over the past four years? Can CCIDC explain what efforts are made to inform students about CCIDC?

## **RENEWAL ISSUE**

**ISSUE 14:** CCIDC has expressed an interest in changing the current biennial renewal schedule to a yearly renewal.

**Question 14:** Does CCIDC believe a yearly renewal schedule will be more efficient and cost effective?

## **INACTIVE STATUS ISSUE**

**ISSUE 15:** CCIDC allows CIDs to apply for inactive status for a yearly fee of \$25. It is unclear what efforts CCIDC makes to ensure that CIDs are aware of the inactive status option?

**Question 15:** What does CCIDC do to inform CIDs of the inactive status option? Does an inactive CID need to provide proof that they have attended continuing education classes to reactivate?

## **CCIDC USE OF THE INTERNET ISSUE**

**ISSUE 16:** CCIDC's web page refers to CCIDC as a public/private partnership. CCIDC's web page also refers to the certification process in California as a public/private partnership. Finally, CCIDC's web page indicates that the state of California believes that CIDs (as opposed to a non-CID) are the best in the business. It is unclear whether this information accurately portrays the role of CCIDC and the state relative to CIDs.

**Question 16:** Does CCIDC believe that they accurately portray the role of CCIDC and the state relative to CIDs?